

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR XC DA

SUBJ: PRIME MINISTER'S PARLIAMENTARY STATEMENT
REGARDING US POLICY IN VIETNAM

REF: COPENHAGEN 1282

THE ENGLISH TRANSLATION OF PRIME MINISTER ANKER
JORGENSEN'S BRIEF STATEMENT IN PARLIAMENT MAY 2 FOLLOWS.

QUOTE

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CONCERNING THE COMMENTS ABOUT MY STATEMENTS

YESTERDAY MORNING, OCCASIONED BY THE FALL OF SAIGON, I WOULD LIKE TO SAY THAT THE WAR IN VIETNAM IN MY OPINION, AND PROBABLY IN THAT OF MOST PEOPLE, HAS BEEN MOST UNFORTUNATE AND FUTILE. PROBABLY NONE OF THE PARTIES HAVE ON EVERY SINGLE POINT OBSERVED THE PARIS AGREEMENTS OF 1973; BUT THE SAIGON REGIME, WHICH IS NOW GONE, BEARS THE MAIN RESPONSIBILITY BY NOT HAVING FULFILLED THE PROVISIONS CONCERNING NATIONAL RECONCILIATION.

IT SHOULD NOT BE A SURPRISE TO ANYBODY THAT I HAVE EXPRESSED MYSELF IN A CRITICAL WAY ABOUT THE VIETNAM POLICY OF THE UNITED STATES. PRECISELY THE VIETNAM PROBLEM HAS FOR YEARS BEEN AN ISSUE OF DISAGREEMENT BETWEEN US AND THE SUCCESSIVE AMERICAN GOVERNMENTS. WE HAVE NOT CONCEALED THIS DISAGREEMENT, AND WE HAVE AT SEVERAL OPPORTUNITIES PRECISELY STRESSED THE VALUABLE FACT THAT DIFFERENCE OF OPINION EVEN ABOUT ESSENTIAL PROBLEMS CAN EXIST AND BE EXPRESSED IN OUR ALLIANCE WITHOUT IT HAVING TO WEAKEN THE FUNDAMENTAL FEELING OF SOLIDARITY BASED ON SHARED IDEALS AND AIMS WHICH IS THE FOUNDATION OF OUR ALLIANCE WITH THE UNITED STATES. IN EXPRESSING RELIEF THAT THE WAR IS NOW OVER, I NATURALLY AND PRIMARILY HAD IN MIND THE SUFFERINGS WITH WHICH IT HAS INFLICTED THE VIETNAMESE POPULATION. HOWEVER, AT THE SAME TIME THE END OF THE WAR MEANS THAT WE CAN PUT AN END TO OUR DISAGREEMENT WITH THE UNITED STATES OVER THIS MATTER.

EQUALLY, IT SHOULD BE UNNECESSARY EXPLICITLY TO CONFIRM THAT IT IS GROUNDLESS TO QUESTION THE RELIABILITY OF THE UNITED STATES AS AN ALLY. THE GOVERNMENT'S CONFIDENCE IN THE ABILITY AND DETERMINATION OF THE UNITED STATES TO KEEP ITS COMMITMENT TO EUROPE IS UNABATED. THE DEVELOPMENT IN VIETNAM WILL OPEN POSSIBILITIES FOR A NEW PHASE OF CONFIDENT CO-OPERATION IN NATO AND IN OTHER WAYS BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND EUROPE.

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FINALLY, I WOULD LIKE TO STRESS A POINT - EVEN THOUGH THAT, TOO, SHOULD BE SELF EVIDENT: - IN USING THE EXPRESSION YESTERDAY MORNING THAT THE FOREIGN POLICY OF THE UNITED STATES WAS NARROW AND OF CONSERVATIVE INSPIRATION, HERE AGAIN WHAT I HAD IN MIND WAS THE SEEMING LACK OF UNDERSTANDING OF THE NATIONAL MOVEMENTS OF SOUTH EAST ASIA, WHICH THE VIETNAM POLICY OF AMERICAN GOVERNMENTS SUGGESTED. ON THE OTHER

HAND, WE HAVE VERY OFTEN - IN THIS GOVERNMENTAL PERIOD
AND IN THE PRECEDING ONE - STATED OUR RESPECT AND
APPRECIATION FOR THE MAIN ELEMENTS OF AMERICAN FOREIGN
POLICY, ESPECIALLY THE DETENTE POLICY TOWARDS THE
SOVIET UNION AND CHINA, WHICH IN THE TERM OF THE PRESENT
AMERICAN SECRETARY OF STATE HAS GIVEN SUCH IMPORTANT
RESULTS.

WE SHOULD NOW, AS IT HAS ALSO BEEN EXPRESSED
BY PRESIDENT FORD RECENTLY, LOOK FORWARD AND CONCEN-
TRATE ON COOPERATION AROUND THE TASK WHICH WE ARE
NOW FACING; TO CONTRIBUTE TO ALLEVIATING THE MISERY
IN VIETNAM AND PARTICIPATE IN RECONSTRUCTING THE
COUNTRY. UNQUOTE
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